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SHOW # 20

MAIN SET: Harry is at Lost and Found loading the last few suitcases onto a handcart. He slowly wheels the handcart toward the platform arch. He hears a twinkling bell and looks around the station but sees nothing.

HARRY

Funny little bell? Am I hearing things?

Mr. Conductor emerges from behind the Information Desk, riding a bicycle. He rings the handlebar bell and rides across Harry's path. They nearly run into each other.

HARRY

Mr. Conductor! Be careful!

MR. CONDUCTOR

You be careful, Harry. You nearly ran me over!

They pause and drop their testy stance.

HARRY

I'm sorry Mr. Conductor. I should have been more careful.

MR. CONDUCTOR

I'm sorry, Harry. I should have been more careful, too.

HARRY

Well, I guess we kind of enjoy bumping into each other--in our own sort of way, of course.

MR. CONDUCTOR

Yes, we do. I was just going to cheer myself up with a bicycle ride.

HARRY

Where to?

MR. CONDUCTOR

Why to Mount Careful. Where else? I'll see you later Harry.

HARRY

So long, Mr. Conductor.

Harry waves to the departing Mr. Conductor. He mutters to himself.

HARRY

This has always been a strange place,
but I 'spose that's why I like it here.

He pauses.

I'm sure going to miss it.

SFX: Train whistle.

Stacy rushes to platform from stage left and stands under center of arch.

STACY

Matt, Tanya. Come here. Hurry.

Matt and Tanya join Stacy on platform from stage left. Stacy puts her hand on their shoulders. She faces them out to view the train.

SFX: Train begins to pull out of station.

TANYA

What is it Stacy?

MATT

Is someone we know leaving on that train?

STACY

No... I just want us to listen to that train and remember it well. It may be the last train to ever stop at Shining Time Station.

The kids turn toward her in disbelief.

MATT

What?

TANYA

Huh?

Stacy turns them back toward the departing train. She gives a slow solemn wave. The kids do the same, imitating her.

STACY

Farewell, old 499. Engine 499--the pride of the Indian Valley Railroad. It stayed on its tracks and was mostly on time.

They continue to watch the train pull out of the station. Harry joins them on the platform and joins them in their waving.

HARRY

I'm going to miss that train.

MATT

Are they taking old 499 off the railroad?

HARRY

Nope. But it's not stopping here anymore.

TANYA

How come, grandpa?

HARRY

Stacy, you had better tell them.

STACY

Matt, Tanya, Shining Time is a small station, and the railroad has just built a big new station over at Snarlyville. And now the railroad wants to send all their trains to the station at Snarlyville instead of sending them to us.

MATT

You mean the railroad wants to close Shining Time Station?

STACY

We think so.

All solemnly wave once more as they hear a distant whistle.

Enter Schemer. He comes to a sudden halt and waves back at them.

SCHEMER

Well, hi there to you, too.

They all stop waving.

Gee, I never knew you liked me that much.

TANYA

We were waving to the train, Schemer.

SCHEMER

Oh... Waving to a train. It figures.

MATT

Aunt Stacy says there might not be any more trains at Shining Time Station.

SCHEMER

You mean the customers won't be running around catching trains anymore?

HARRY

That's what it looks like, Schemer.

Schemer is hardly able to contain himself.

SCHEMER

Oh... Oh... That's fantastic! Now everyone can spend all their time on my machines. I'll turn the entire station into one huge amusement arcade. Snack bars, flashing lights, the works!

He waves to the arcade.

Hello my wonderful machines. I'm ready to go to work today.

STACY

Schemer, you don't understand! The whole station might be closing down.

SCHEMER

(The reality of losing the arcade dawns on Schemer. Blurts out that they (the rr) can't do this to him--or them. Shows that he too cares a little bit about them and the station. He vows to put a stop to this and leaves the station muttering about a plan to save it)

Telephone rings. Stacy answers.

STACY

Hello, Shining Time Station. Stacy Jones speaking... Yes, Mr. King. Yes, we'll be here.

She slowly replaces the receiver.

MATT, TANYA, HARRY
Welllllll?

STACY
Mr. J.B. King, Esq. is coming to see us. I think he wants to tell us personally that the railroad is closing down the station.

MATT
No, no. They can't.

STACY
I'm afraid they can. They own the railroad... But somehow I can't help feeling that...

HARRY
Yes, Stacy?

STACY
...Oh, I don't know. Nothing.

She shrugs, looking thoughtful.

HARRY
Well, I sent all the lost and found off to the new station at Snarlyville. I guess I better be packing up my own things.

Harry exits to his workshop.

Mr. Conductor appears by the station house. He removes his bicycle helmet and replaces it with his conductor's cap. The children run over to him.

MATT
Have you heard the news, Mr. Conductor?

MR. CONDUCTOR
Yes... I'm always the first to know about anything that concerns our station, Matt.

TANYA
What's wrong with Shining Time Station?

MR. CONDUCTOR

The railroad thinks it's old fashioned.

He pauses, looking thoughtful.

Yes, old fashioned, just like my friend Trevor...

MATT

What happened to Trevor?

MR. CONDUCTOR

Well, I'll tell you the story because it has a sad beginning, but a happy ending... Maybe it will cheer us all up.

STACY

And we could use a little cheering up.

MR. CONDUCTOR

Right you are.

MR. Conductor blows whistle. Steam effect.

Thomas Story: "Saved From Scrap"

MATT

Trevor got saved.

TANYA

Maybe Shining Time Station can be saved, too.

SCHEMER (O.S.)

TBD

MR. CONDUCTOR

EXIT LINE - TBD

Schemer enters loaded down with boards and sawhorses. He goes to the arcade and begins to barricade himself inside.

Stacy emerges from the workshop.

STACY

(Comments on Schemer's activity)

SCHEMER

(Explains that he intends to barricade himself into the arcade. In new spirit of cooperation he offers to play a song on jukebox using his own money)

SCHEMER

What will it be?

STACY

A railroad song.

Int: Jukebox.

TITO

They're sure looking gloomy out there.

OTHER PUPPETS

(a short exchange of lines showing that puppets are also concerned) *frightened about their fate.*

Nickle drops down.

TITO

Oh look. It's a buffalo nickle!
A real buffalo nickle!!!

DIDI

Since when, like, do buffalo's have their own money?

GRACE

It's not a buffalo's nickle. It's a nickle with an engraving of a buffalo on it. They stopped making them a long time ago.

REX

Why do you think they stopped making them, Tex?

TEX

Well Rex, the way I see it being a buffalo is hard enough without going around making little pictures of each other. And I figure they just got tired of it.

TITO

Hey, man, the buffalos didn't do the engraving...

DIDI

They just had to pose, right? Just stand, like, real still.

TEX

I wonder if they got paid for posing?

I reckon
REX
Yes sir. ^V They paid them a dime
each.

All the puppets chime in with chatter.

TITO
QUIET!

There is a sudden silence.

There's people waiting for us to play a song! Let's get with it!
~~Play~~... A one, and a two and a
three...

Band plays "Casey Jones"

Intercut with song: Harry looking around his workshop, slowly
packing his things; Tanya doing a drawing of the station;
Stacy swinging Matt around.

Song ends.

Schemer has run out of material for his barricade.

SCHEMER
(says he'll be back with more
enforcement for his barricade)

Schemer exits

STACY
(Notes Tanya's drawing--folk wisdom
comment about heros and legends of
America as they look on the mural)

Mr. Conductor appears on Information Desk.

MR. CONDUCTOR
Anyone feel like a trip down the
Anything Tunnel one ~~more~~ time?
last

The kids and Stacy nod.

Well, then--here we go.

Anything Tunnel: Harbour Lights.

STACY
That was a little sad, Mr. Conductor.
I mean, under the circumstances.

MR. CONDUCTOR
The problem with my magic, Stacy,
is that it tends to feel like I do.
It was, so to speak, expressing my
feelings.

STACY

Yes... I see. We understand.

MR. CONDUCTOR

Would you excuse me, please. I would like to make sure I've tidied everything up in case we have to leave in a hurry.

Mr. Conductor vanishes.

Schemer enters with new barricade material.

Harry comes out and stands in doorway of his workshop.

HARRY

Well, I'm ~~all~~ packed up.

~~just about~~

The kids come over to him.

You know it's funny that today is probably our last day here. Stacy, you know what today is, don't you?

STACY

I sure do.

MATT

What is today, Aunt Stacy?

STACY

Once a year on this day, the circus train always stops here.

SCHEMER

The circus train! Really? Here? It would stop here? The circus with my favorite person in all the world: Jerry the Juggler?

Stacy and Harry nod.

STACY

That's the train.

Oh

SCHEMER

~~Oh~~ I feel terrible. I've got to meet Jerry the Juggler. He'd come here?

Harry looks at his watch.

HARRY

The circus train is due on the
express track any moment now.

SFX: speeding train.

Schemer races to the platform.

SCHEMER

Stop! Stop! Come back, come back...
Oh, please come back.

The train speeds on. Schemer is left forelorn.

It's no use. I'll never get to
meet Jerry the Juggler.

He hangs his head. Then suddenly perks up.

This calls for some drastic action.

Schemer dashes from the station.

Harry goes back into his workshop. Matt and Tanya follow.

INT: WORKSHOP

TANYA

Will the circus train stop at
Snarlyville?

HARRY

Yes. Snarlyville is a big station.
Little stations like this one are fading
into the past. You see them everywhere
nowadays: abandoned railroad stations.

Dissolve into footage or stills to illustrate the point.

All shapes and sizes and designs.
Some looking like ginger-bread houses,
and others like small stone castles--
but all of them were handsome, well
made buildings that would always say:
"come in stranger, welcome, and I'll
tell you something important about
the American railroad." Those stations
had real character. It's a shame to
see them shut down...

Out of footage.

HARRY (cont'd)

Well, I better finish getting my things together. Why don't you kids go on out and keep Stacy company?

TANYA

Bye, Grandpa.

MATT

Bye, Harry.

Matt and Tanya exit.

Stacy is packing things at the ticket booth. She finds a drawing that the kids did ~~xxxxxxx~~ and some string flowers.

for Tanya's pen pal

STACY

(Shows kids what she found. She remembers how the kids ~~xxxxxxx~~ did the drawings ~~xxxxxxx~~ and she remembers the day they did the string flowers.

MATT & TANYA

(chime in with their fun memories of the station)

STACY

(talks about looking to the future, STS is a special place for everyone, we can always keep it alive in our memories and recall the happy times, what they have learned and seen and heard and use these experiences as inspiration for the future. And who knows, perhaps we can find another station if we really want to)

The kids nod emphatically.

MATT

~~We know that, Stacy.~~ But there'll never be another station like this one.

STACY

(respond line)

Mr. Conductor appears.

MR. CONDUCTOR

If you look into the picture machine, you'll see what Stacy means. Lot's of children feel the way that you do.

TANYA

You're got to do something to save the station. You're got to!

STACY

Come on kids. I'll turn the handle.

Picture Machine: Music Video "Four Kids with Feelings"

Music number ends.

All three (Matt, Tanya, Stacy) give each other a hug.

Tanya

Those kids feel just like we do.

STACY

Well, what did I always tell you?

TOGETHER

There's just something about this place.

MR. Conductor appears on Arcade steps. He has a suitcase with him.

The kids go over to him.

TANYA

Mr. Conductor, are you leaving already?

MR. CONDUCTOR

I'm a railroad man, Tanya. I have to be where the trains are. I'm just preparing myself.

MATT

Will we ever see you again?

TANYA

Please don't leave.

MATT

Take us with you.

MR. CONDUCTOR

Now don't start that. You're both going to make lots of new friends You'll see.

tanya

We don't want new friends. We want you.

MR. C

Nonsense. Of course you want new friends. Everybody wants new friends. Even Thomas who thought he knew everyone was happy to meet Trevor.

Mr. Conductor checks his bathtub plug.

Oops. It's later than I thought.

TANYA

Tell us. Tell us what happened.

MATT

Don't go. Don't go.

MR. C.

All right. One more story.

Mr. C. blows whistle. Steam Effect.

THOMAS STORY: #32

MAIN SET.

Mr. C.

~~Now~~ I think it's getting time for me to go. *leave.*

MATT

Not yet. Please not yet.

MR. C. *both*

Now let me tell you something: no matter what happens we will always be friends.

TANYA

Promise?

MATT

Promise?

MR. C.

Promise... Oh my, look! There is Mr. J.B. King. The superintendent of the entire Indian Valley Railroad. Come over here with me. Hurry!

Mr. C and the kids go behind the barricade and stand pressed against the wall so that they can see what's going on, but can't easily be seen.

In his haste, Mr. C's hat falls off and is left behind on the arcade steps.

J.B. King strides into the station.

KING

Good day, Miss Jones.

STACY

Good day, Mr. King.

±

KING

Well, yes. ~~Onto business.~~ *I imagine you know why I'm here?*
~~you know, It~~ is my duty to officially
 close this train station.

Matt and Tanya run out of the ~~arease~~ *arcade*.

MATT

No, no, you can't close the station.

TANYA

Shining time is the best station
 the railroad has.

KING

Are you two major stockholders
 in this railroad?

BOTH

No.

KING

Good! Let me explain something
 kids. Bigger is better. We just
 built a huge station at Snarleyville.
 I like things big. Tell me, you both
 want to grow up and be big don't you?

BOTH

Well...

KING

Sure you do. Now you're thinking
 correctly, you thinking big.

MATT

I don't want to be big if it
 means losing what's nice.

KING

You don't, huh?

Schemer comes bounding in. Trips in his haste. He runs over to Stacy.

SCHEMER

(describes his plan to save the station: his mommy has agreed to have them move the station, board by board, to her backyard)

Schemer spots King.

STACY

Schemer, this is Mr. J.B. King.

(PERHAPS SCHEMER COULD ASK HIM TO PUT UP HIS DUKES, THEN AS QUICKLY BACK DOWN?)

SCHEMER

(responds)

SFX: train arriving at station.

Harry emerges from his workshop.

the meaning of this!

KING

What's ~~going on here?~~ No trains are supposed to stop here...

He goes up to platform to see what is happening. The others trail after him.

a combination juggler and clown.

Enter Jerry the Juggler. He is greatly aggitated. He passes right by King, and with open arms goes to Stacy.

King's jaw drops open.

KING

That's Jerry the Juggler. My favorite juggler in the entire world!

SCHEMER

That's Jerry the Juggler. My idol.

JERRY

What's going on here, Stacy? The railroad rerouted the circus train past here to some awful place, and we had to back up the whole way to pull in here.

King and Schemer appear like dumbstruck teen fans.

KING

(to Stacy)

You know Jerry the Juggler?

STACY

Jerry, this is Mr. King. He's the superintendent of the railroad.

JERRY

Are you the one responsible for closing down this station?

King, flustered at speaking to his idol, momentarily thinks Jerry is joking so King laughs hysterically. Then he recovers.

KING

...This is not a joke.

(to Schemer)

That's not a joke.

SCHEMER

(nodding)

No, not a joke.

JERRY

You may not know this but the circus train goes 200 miles out of its way every year just to stop at this station.

Jerry starts to walk around, juggling as he talks.

This station is special to us. There's just no other place like it. We wouldn't think of going on tour without stopping here first. It's our lucky charm... So I sure hope it's not being shut down.

KING

Shut to the circus train? Never!

HARRY

Did you hear that, Stacy?

JERRY

Great! I'm going to tell the others.

Jerry ~~is~~ notices Schemer. He tosses him over some juggling pins. Schemer begins to juggle.

SCHEMER
(calls attention to himself)

King walks back downstage.

KING

Now, where's a pencil?

He spots Mr. Conductor's little hat on the arcade steps and walks over. He carefully picks up the hat and examines it. We can see a look of recognition come over his face. All the others are still by the platform and miss his reaction. King puts on his glasses and reads the inscription on the hat.

watching Schemer

KING

(to himself)

So he lives here. I see... I see...

King carefully replaces the hat on the steps.

This place is special.

He calls out to Matt and Tanya.

Hey, kids.

They come over.

What do you say we keep this train station open?

BOTH

Sure! Yeah! Great! Wow!

KING

But on one condition. You get me Jerry the Juggler's autograph.

BOTH

Sure!

King takes the kids by their hands and leads them out toward the platform.

KING

Let's go watch the circus train unload. You know, Jerry the Juggler has a very serious side... I like that in a juggling clown.

Stacy, Harry and Schemer follow. Schemer dashes on ahead. Matt and Tanya turn back and give a little wave to Mr. C in the arcade area. He smiles and waves back.

*Cutaway to Mr. C.
watching carefully from his
hiding place.*

Stacy and Harry pause at the platform

HARRY

You had a feeling this would
work out in the end, didn't you
Stacy?

STACY

Things do have a way of working
out right around here, Harry.
There's just something about this
place.

They both laugh. Harry and Stacy rest their arms around
each other's shoulders and exit over sound of circus train
unloading outside station.

Mr. Conductor appears beside his hat. He picks up his hat
dusts it off and places it on his head. He waves to the
platform.

MR. C.

See you later, everyone!

Mr. Conductor vanishes

FADE

CREDITS.